

DEC 12 1946

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

OCTOBER • 1946



PUBLISHED BY THE SIERRA CLUB • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

## SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

VOLUME XXXI • NUMBER 5



OCTOBER • 1946

Published bimonthly by the Sierra Club, 220 Bush Street, San Francisco 4, California. Annual dues are \$4.00 (first year \$8.00), of which \$1.00 is for subscription to Sierra Club Bulletin. Entered as second-class matter at Post Office, San Francisco, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Contributions on subjects of interest to Sierra Club members are welcome, and should be sent to Editorial Board.

DAVID R. BROWER, *Editor*HARRIET T. PARSONS, *Associate Editor*

Ansel Adams, Barbara Bedayn, Arthur H. Blake, August Frugé, Weldon F. Heald, Charlotte E. Mauk, Carel Mulder, Marion R. Parsons, Elsie Richardson, Dorothy Sandstrom, Blanche Stallings

THE COVER—Oak Tree and Cathedral Rocks, October, Yosemite Valley. By Ansel Adams.

## EDITOR'S MISCELLANY

*Annual Banquet.* Once more the Sierra Club will hold its annual banquet at the Fairmont Hotel on Nob Hill in San Francisco. This year the date is an easy one to remember, December 7th, and it is expected that there will be a large gathering of members from all over the state. Cyrus Washburn, chairman of the dinner committee, has made plans for an entertaining evening for everyone.

The president's reception begins at 6 p.m., when President and Mrs. Bestor Robinson will be on hand to greet the guests. Dinner is to be in the Gold Room; pictures are to be shown during the evening in the Red Room, and there will be dancing until one o'clock.

The price, which includes tip and tax and all the entertainment, is \$5.00. Reservation

cards with full information will soon be sent to members. Save the date and plan to come.

\* \* \*

*Regional Forester.* Perry A. (Pat) Thompson, veteran member of the Forest Service and chief of the division of fire control, has been appointed to succeed Stuart Bevier Show as regional forester for the California region. Thompson, who will begin his new duties in San Francisco in November, was formerly supervisor of the Colville Forest, Washington, and there in the bad season of 1929, he directed a fire-fighting army of almost 1,000 men. In 1935 he was put in charge of the Willamette National Forest, Eugene, Oregon. His interest in the development of young men for positions of greater responsibility led to his promotion in 1938 to be personnel management chief of the Northern Region of the Forest Service, at Missoula, Montana. In the following year he was made chief of the Forest Service division of personnel management at Washington and, in 1942, chief of the division of fire control.

\* \* \*

*New Editor.* At the Mendocino meeting of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Dorothy Middleton, of the Salem, Oregon, Chemeketans, was elected editor of the Federation's bulletin, *Western Outdoor Quarterly*. Her task will not be an easy one; the bulletin has been suspended for the past year and will require a good deal of rebuilding. Contributions on club or Federation activities or on any other suitable subjects are wanted.

\* \* \*

*Climbing.* The Park Service climbing policy, which appears on pages 7 and 8, is being given careful consideration by the club Mountaineering Committee.

A.P.

With the  
Canyon N  
the Board  
returned  
This, the  
brought t  
the Park  
and a nu  
gathered  
under a g  
a hundre  
1941 mee  
it singula  
ing to the  
be consid  
meeting p  
the grove  
All di  
Adams an  
The a  
most urg  
the Kings  
Wild Area  
they both  
upon a w  
solution m  
relative w  
mercial (

San C  
During t  
from the  
ice in San  
tion in th  
the San C  
tention to  
ary revisio  
ment in  
Regional  
of the Si  
its report  
Forester a  
President  
Board a l  
by the R

## Directors Meet in Kings Canyon

With the holding of a fall meeting in Kings Canyon National Park on September 1, 1946, the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club returned gratefully to a prewar schedule. This, the first outdoor meeting since 1941, brought together Club directors, officials of the Park Service and of the Forest Service, and a number of Sierra Club members. All gathered at the Cedar Grove campground, under a group of fine yellow pines, perhaps a hundred yards or so from the site of the 1941 meeting. Directors and guests alike felt it singularly appropriate that problems relating to the Kings Canyon National Park could be considered here, rather than at some indoor meeting place far from the cliffs and streams, the groves and meadows, under discussion.

All directors were present except Ansel Adams and Ike Livermore, who were excused.

The agenda included varied items, but most urgent of the matters considered were the Kings Canyon road and the San Geronio Wild Area. These problems are related in that they both involve questions of encroachment upon a wilderness; and in each the ultimate solution must depend on an appraisal of the relative worth of wilderness values and commercial (resort) developments.

### *San Geronio Problems Discussed*

During the morning, Mr. James Gibson, from the Regional Office of the Forest Service in San Francisco (and in charge of recreation in this region), was present to discuss the San Geronio Wild Area. He called attention to the increasing pressure for boundary revision which would permit ski development in that area, and explained that the Regional Office desired to obtain the views of the Sierra Club directors before making its report and recommendations to the Chief Forester at Washington.

President Bestor Robinson read to the Board a letter addressed to the Sierra Club by the Regional Forester and expressing his

views on the problem. In it were emphasized that (a) the Forest Service has not yet reached any definite conclusion in this matter; (b) no specific plans have yet been formulated for the development which would be permitted if Wild Area boundaries were to be modified; (c) the Forest Service would plan at least a one-year survey before beginning actual development work, were modification provided for.

Lewis F. Clark, Chairman of the Winter Sports Committee of the Sierra Club, spoke to the meeting, describing the area involved (he had recently visited San Geronio for the purpose of studying the problem) and giving his impressions of the value of the region for both summer and winter recreational use. He also made a rather detailed presentation of the viewpoint of some southern California skiers, as revealed in their arguments for revision of the Wild Area boundaries. (So impartial was Mr. Clark's presentation that some listeners did not know whether he personally favored preservation or revision of the present boundaries!) He concluded by summarizing the Winter Sports Committee's study and discussion, and presented the resolution which that committee had adopted at its meeting on August 22:

"While recognizing the superior value of the San Geronio area for skiing, the Committee believes that because of its unique summer value as a wilderness its boundaries should be retained."

Former director Glen Dawson (present Chairman of the Ski Mountaineers Section of the Southern California Chapter of the Sierra Club) was called upon, and (stating that he spoke as an individual) presented his own recommendations. They were for the development, after careful study and planning, of a "corridor" in the Wild Area which "should allow skiing with only partial damage to the wild area." His recommendations

included some road extensions, the construction of parking areas and some buildings, and installation of chair lifts.

Former director Arthur H. Blake, Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club, was asked to present the recommendations of that committee. He told of his inspection of the San Geronio Wild Area in company with regional and local officers of the Forest Service, representatives of the southern California Ski Mountaineers, and of the Southern Division of the California Ski Association. He reported that the Conservation Committee had considered this same information, at their meeting on August 27, and had reached the following conclusion:

"In view of the peril to the concept of wild and wilderness areas if the boundaries of those areas are to be modified to suit demands of specialized activities at the expense of other users, this committee recommends to the Board of Directors that no revisions be made which would alter the wilderness character of this area."

A plea for recognition of the development of skiing as the highest use of the San Geronio area was presented by Mr. Henry Mandolf, a Sierra Club member and the president of the San Diego Ski Club.

Mr. Farquhar suggested that modification of the present boundary and development of a corridor would probably lead to a much greater commercial development than anyone now contemplates. Mr. Leonard commented that the portions which would be excluded from the wild area through redesignation as a "corridor" seemed to be so vital to the area as a whole that it might be better—from a national view—to discuss whether or not the wild area should be abolished, rather than to use the misleading term "modification."

Upon further discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"RESOLVED, with reference to the San Geronio Wild Area, that the Sierra Club favors:

"1. Acquisition of all privately owned land prior to the taking of any action which would increase the value of such land or provide access thereto.

"2. The making of a complete factual study and the formulation of specific plans prior to holding any hearing on the modification of the boundaries of such area.

"3. The recognition that the preservation without impairment of the unique wilderness character of this area is paramount to the construction of ski facilities."

### *Plans for Kings Canyon Studied*

At the invitation of the Board, Colonel John R. White, Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, attended the meeting, accompanied by Mr. S. DeLong, Mr. S. Hill, and Mr. V. J. Westley, all of the National Park Service. They presented in detail a proposed plan for the development of the floor of the Kings River Canyon, including locations of roads, pack station, and tourist facilities. Vigorous discussion followed, during which various directors offered objection to several features of the plan. Colonel White, however, pointed out the need for immediate action, since pressure for development work of some kind is becoming so great that ill-advised action may be necessary if plans are not carefully worked out in advance. A committee was appointed, with power to act for the Board of Directors, as follows: Francis P. Farquhar, chairman; William E. Colby, Joel H. Hildebrand, and Walter A. Starr; David R. Brower, alternate. This committee was instructed to meet with representatives of the National Park Service and with representatives of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce to confer further on a suitable location of the terminus of the Kings Canyon Road.

Other matters discussed with Colonel White by the directors included grazing problems and the Pear Lake Ski Hut. In response to Colonel White's request for advice

on the late the Park use of the

Discuss

Colonel V that the b lies in bet tice on th users, rath number o party. Col improving tion of d of the ran were not

A

Mr. W Trails Co ment to h David R. Hildebran Leonard,

Mr. W Sierra Cl presented by southe

The Clai announce at Norden

For res direct to Springs, C ber 21, 1 Club reso Sport Sh Berkeley

The ne Commissa (breakf Lodging: (if for guests

on the latter, the board recommended that the Park Service approve a small charge for use of the facilities at the Hut.

Discussion between Mr. Leonard and Colonel White brought out their agreement that the best solution to the grazing problem lies in better management and grazing practice on the part of both Park Service and users, rather than in a flat limitation of the number of stock to be used by any particular party. Colonel White expressed his desire for improving grazing conditions by better location of drift fences and better supervision of the ranger staff, but explained that funds were not available for this purpose.

#### *Appointments and Reports*

Mr. Walter A. Starr, as chairman of the Trails Committee, announced the appointment to his committee of Arthur H. Blake, David R. Brower, Lewis F. Clark, Milton Hildebrand, Oliver Kehrlein, Richard M. Leonard, and Parker Severson.

Mr. William Boland, chairman of the Sierra Club Committee on Organization, presented informally some preliminary plans by southern members of the group, for the

work of that committee, which had not yet met.

The Secretary reported a bequest to the Club by the late Charles R. Holton, a former member of the Sierra Club and participant in several High Trips, of a sum of one hundred dollars to assist in carrying out the work of "preserving the beauties of nature for mankind." The Secretary was directed to express appropriate appreciation to the executor of the estate.

Mr. John P. Buwalda, eminent geologist and longtime member of the Yosemite Advisory Committee, was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Sierra Club.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter of congratulations to be sent to Mr. Stewart Bevier Show, recently appointed Deputy Director and Chief Silviculturist of the Forestry and Forest Products Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the letter is also to thank Mr. Show for his fine service in the interest of conservation during the past twenty years as Regional Forester for the Forest Service. Mr. Show, who joined the Sierra Club in 1926, was elected an honorary member of the Club in 1937.

### **New Rates at Clair Tappaan Lodge**

The Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee has announced new rates for the coming season at Norden.

For reservations up to December 21, write direct to Keith Lummis, Sierra Club, Soda Springs, California. For dates after December 21, make reservations with the Sierra Club reservation clerk (at the Jim Davis Sport Shop), 2226 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley 4—telephone, BErkeley 0635.

The new rates are as follows:

*Commissary:* \$1.80 per day  
(breakfast, 55c, lunch 45c, dinner 80c)

*Lodging:* 70c per night  
(if for Saturday night only, \$1.00)  
(guests of members 50c higher)

*Short week end:* \$2.80

(Saturday dinner through Sunday lunch)

*Long week end:* \$4.00

(Friday night through Sunday lunch)

*Stays of six days or more:* \$2.25 per day

*Ski patrol and first aid fund:* 10c on each

It is unlikely that any non-member guests can be permitted during the Christmas or New Year holidays because of the number of members wishing to use the lodge. As the operation of the lodge must depend on the coöperation of those using it, each visitor is expected to undertake his share of house-keeping duties.

## 1947 Outing Plans

For many years it has been the intention of the Sierra Club to announce its annual trips almost a year in advance so that other parties interested in traveling through the mountains could make their plans accordingly. The heavy travel into the Sierra makes coordination of itineraries important; the meadows will suffer if too many parties go to the same area at the same time. Fortunately, the wilderness area of the Sierra Nevada, the largest in the United States, is still extensive enough to give all who now desire it the opportunity to escape from the rush of civilization into the peace of a wilderness.

The forty-third annual High Trip of the Sierra Club will cover a period of four weeks in 1947. It will commence on Sunday, July 6, over Pine Creek Pass, due west from Bishop. After acclimatization for a few days above Hutchinson Meadow, at about ten thousand feet, we will travel down the San Joaquin, up to Sally Keyes Lake, and over Selden Pass to a camp site close to the fine high country in the vicinity of Lake Italy. From there we proceed northward to a camp in the Second Recess, several miles from the 1946 Base

Camp, and will exchange two-weekers over Mono Pass.

Starting the final two weeks, we go northward over Silver Pass along the new section of the Muir Trail, buried under snow during the 1938 trip, and camp at Duck Lake. After a brief visit to Rainbow Falls and Devils Postpile, we will conclude the trip with the incomparable scenery of Mount Ritter and the Minarets from the vicinity of Lake Ediza. Our trail will end at Agnew Meadow, making easy the shuttling of cars.

The Base Camp is planned tentatively on Palisade Creek at its junction with the Middle Fork of the Kings, a popular camp site of High Trips for many years. It is reached from South Lake and will be one of the most remote spots that the Base Camp has attempted. We are negotiating for stock to start the Burro trips from the Mineral King region, but plans are not yet definite. The other trips involve smaller parties; itineraries will be announced as soon as they can be prepared.

RICHARD M. LEONARD

## Winter Sports Dilemma

If trails or cross-country routes have afforded the summer visitor a fuller knowledge of Yosemite National Park and its hidden wild places, certainly the improvement of access to various park areas in winter has also increased the enjoyment of the superlative scenery for which Yosemite was first set aside as a national park. But how much access ought there to be?

In the first days of winter sports in Yosemite, snowballing, tobogganning, ice skating, sliding on toe-strapped skis down small hills, were enough for the winter visitor. Snow, to Californians at least, was novelty enough in itself. But the surge of interest in skiing as a sport of skill that came after World War I,

the resulting and vast improvement in ski equipment and apparel, and the winter accessibility brought about by use of snow-removal equipment, inevitably stimulated skiers to demand greatly improved facilities. The National Park Service, required by law to be custodians of outstanding scenic resources for all the people, in all seasons, for present and future enjoyment, very properly "made haste slowly." Other areas, administered by agencies whose obligations were less exacting, developed facilities far more rapidly, and the pressure on the National Park Service, in Yosemite and elsewhere, was greatly increased.

Ski development in Yosemite involved serious scenic, geographic, and economic con-

sideration of damage to the area was created that without g. Otherwise, primarily by and not persons c where. T close to From the developmen plicate, otherwise risk. Who economic enough to road mai should ne Park Serv Congress As for the sake of the aggregate accommo the best were mos hill tran

[The Sie Lawrence Region T Park Ser Service r climbing those abs Club Bul in coöper are prese members. Mountain McKinley ton Nation



siderations. The development should not damage the scenic values for which the park was created. It should nevertheless be so situated that the skier could enjoy that scenery without going far beyond the development. Otherwise the facilities would be used primarily by persons who wanted only to ski, and not to enjoy the Yosemite scene. Such persons could be better accommodated elsewhere. The development should not be so close to the valley rim as to be dangerous. From the concessionaire's standpoint, the development should make use of, and not duplicate, hotel facilities already available; otherwise it would not be worth the financial risk. Where the Park Service was concerned, economically, the ski area should be close enough to the valley not to require excessive road maintenance and snow removal, and should not be too difficult to administer; the Park Service, after all, could spend only what Congress appropriated in the annual budget.

As for the man who skied in Yosemite for the sake of skiing, his wants were simple. In the aggregate, he wanted high and low cost accommodations built at an elevation where the best snow lay the longest and the slopes were most open; he wanted satisfactory uphill transportation to enable him to spend

most of his time and energy sliding down; he wanted cleared runs and marked trails, outlying huts for touring, and excellent ski instruction patterned after the best European ski schools. He wanted ski competition scheduled and long courses on which to race. He, moreover, wanted all this in a quantity that would take care of four thousand or more skiers on a week end, without overcrowding the facilities or overburdening his purse.

What could the National Park Service do? The development at Badger Pass was the result, and was begun in 1935. The ski house, upski, rope tows, Constam lift (under construction), the runs of various types, the ski school, the cleared roads and parking area, the ranger ski patrol, the marked touring trails, and the touring hut at Ostrander Lake, are all part of a development that was believed to be, before it was undertaken, compatible with the national-park concept. Improvements will inevitably follow. In the development so far, full enjoyment has been provided for the thousands of skiers who, although they like improvements, would still prefer that the administrators of the national parks continue to "make haste slowly" in any attempt to improve upon the natural scene.

D. R. B.

## Mountaineering in National Parks

[The Sierra Club has recently received from Lawrence C. Merriam, Regional Director of Region Two (Omaha, Nebraska), National Park Service, a copy of the current Park Service regulations pertaining to mountain climbing. The regulations, at variance with those abstracted in the April, 1940, *Sierra Club Bulletin* (which had been worked out in cooperation with members of the Club), are presented here for the information of members.—Ed.]

*Mountain summit climbing.* (a) In Mount McKinley, Mount Rainier, and Grand Teton National Parks, mountain climbing shall

be undertaken only with the permission of the superintendent.

(b) In Devils Tower National Monument, the climbing of Devils Tower beyond the talus slope or above the shelf or bench at the base of the definite columns, where such shelf or bench is present, shall be undertaken only with the permission of the superintendent.

(c) To insure reasonable chances of success, the superintendent shall not grant permission under paragraph (a) or (b) above until he is satisfied that all members of the party are properly clothed, equipped, and

shod, are qualified physically and through previous experience to make the climb, and that the necessary supplies are carried.

(d) No individual will be permitted to start alone for the summit of Mount McKinley, Mount Rainier, or any major peak in Grand Teton National Park, or Devils Tower.

(e) While the Government assumes no responsibility in connection with any kind of accident to mountain-climbing parties, all

persons starting to ascend Mount McKinley, Mount Rainier, or any major peak in Grand Teton National Park, or Devils Tower, shall fill out an information blank furnished by the superintendent and shall report to him upon his return.

(f) When the superintendent deems such action necessary he may prohibit all mountain climbing in the park or monument. (Regs., Sec. Int., April 8 1942; 7 F. R. 2906.)

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933, of *Sierra Club Bulletin*, published bimonthly at San Francisco, California, for October 1, 1946.

City and County of San Francisco } ss.  
State of California }

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Virginia Ferguson, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the business manager of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, 4; Editor, David R. Brower, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, 4; Managing Editor, none; Business Manager, Virginia Ferguson, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, 4.

2. That the owner is: Sierra Club (a corporation), 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, 4; No stockholders. Officers: Bestor Robinson, President; Richard M. Leonard, Secretary; Walter L. Huber, Treasurer, San Francisco.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

VIRGINIA FERGUSON, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of September, 1946.

(SEAL)

VIOLET NEUENBURG, Notary Public.

(My commission expires January 3, 1947.)



McKinley,  
in Grand  
tower, shall  
finished by  
rt to him

seems such  
ll monu-  
onument.  
7 F. R.

REQUIRED  
b Bulletin,

d Virginia  
is manager  
chief, a true  
the above  
inbodied in

nagers are  
ills Tower,  
Tower, San

ckholders,  
nsurer, San

per cent of  
anager.

blic.  
y 3, 1947